

REMARKS

This Amendment constitutes a Submission under 37 C.F.R. 1.114, and is filed along with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). The undersigned wishes to thank Examiners Vig and Nguyen for the courtesies extended to him at a personal interview conducted on October 28, 2003. At that interview, Applicant's invention and U.S. 6,334,107 (Gale et al.) were discussed. It was pointed out that Gale et al. disclose a method and apparatus for managing a real estate unit which is limited in scope. Access to the method and apparatus of Gale et al. is limited to a building manager located at a remote location. Furthermore, the capabilities of the method and apparatus of Gale et al. are limited to storing, retrieving, and editing information relating to the building, such as tenant addresses, telephone numbers, etc.

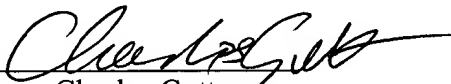
In contrast, Applicant's invention is for a collaborative real estate management system with features for exchanging information among tenants, staff, and a building manager, and task management relating to the operation of a building. Thus, the inventive system is accessible by tenants, staff, and a building manager. Furthermore, the inventive system enables direct interaction by the tenants with the staff and building manager. For example, a tenant may utilize the inventive system to send a service request to a member of the staff of the building. The system can also be used to track the progress of said service request. As another example, a tenant can utilize the inventive system to instruct a member of the staff sitting at the front desk of a building to allow a visitor to enter the building. Such capabilities are neither disclosed nor suggested by Gale et al.

At the interview, several draft claims were shown to the Examiners who agreed that it appeared to patentable distinguish over Gale et al. As part of this Amendment, independent claim 98 is presented for examination. Claim 98 is similar to the draft claim shown at the inventor but also includes some suggestions made by the Examiners at the interview.

For these reasons, it is believed that claim 98 as well as the claims which depend from it are patentable over the prior art and a favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested. The Examiner in charge of this case is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number shown below if it will expedite allowance of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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